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*Handwritten: A-1, Cont'd*

present invention has a weaker outbreak tensile load in comparison with an outer circumferential wall portion of a normal ceramic honeycomb structure, thereby thermal shock resistance is increased, and rupture is hard to be caused.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as follows.

*Handwritten: 100B, B1, A2*

1. (Amended) A ceramic honeycomb structure comprising a plurality of through-holes surrounded by partition walls, wherein a thermal expansion coefficient of an outer circumferential wall portion in the ceramic honeycomb structure is larger than a thermal expansion coefficient, in a direction of a diameter, of an inside partition wall portion in the ceramic honeycomb structure, and stress is applied to the inside partition wall portion from the outer circumferential wall portion.

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3. (Amended) A ceramic honeycomb structure as defined in claim 1, wherein a partition wall of the ceramic honeycomb structure has a thickness of less than 0.1 mm.